The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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LABOR, SINGLE-HANDED, RESISTS COOLIE INVASION

While alleged friends and frank opponents of organized labor bemoan that "trade unionists are only interested in hours and wages," these workers struggle on for American ideals, with their critics silent in times of great test.

Labor's present fight against the importation of Chinese coolies to Hawaii, thereby destroying the principle of Chinese exclusion, interests no critic of organized workers.

Under the banner of the A. F. of L. organized labor in the United States and Hawaii are alone fighting this proposal. Hawaiian trade unionists have commissioned two of their representatives to come to Washington, a distance of 10,000 miles, to expose the claims of sugar planters and their mercenaries. These unionists are now in the nation's capital, working under the direction of President Gompers.

Every affiliate of the A. F. of L., especially in the Pacific and inter-mountain states, has been warned of this menace, and protests are pouring into the halls of congress.

If the public were acquainted with this proposal, what it means to our country, and the single-handed fight labor is making, the objectors would storm the capitol. But the resolution is given the "silent treatment" by forces that hope they may win by stealth and intensify the Oriental question, now so acute in the far west.

The proposal is the most brazen yet suggested by reaction, drunk with war profits and flushed with a political victory. It shows to what lengths plutocracy would go but for an alert and aggressive trade union movement.

The oozy, sentimental, so-called "liberal," the muddled doctrinaire, the popularizer with his rose-water theories, the writer of giddy labor programs, the denunciator of trade unionism—all are silent as big business attempts to insert in the Chinese exclusion act the thin edge of a wedge that would permit hordes of coolies to sweep, like locusts, across the Pacific and inter-mountain states.

Every right-thinking citizen should join with labor in this fight. Every senator and congressman should hear from "back home" in language that is easily understood.

Let the country accept this challenge to chinafy America.

Don't trust reaction, its newspapers or political agents who would sneak this legislation through congress under the plea that there is a "labor scarcity" in Hawaii.

Forty years ago labor insisted: "The Chinese must go."

Today let Washington hear the country-wide roar: "The Chinese must not come."

SLAVERY ON AMERICAN SOIL PROPOSED IN HOUSE

REACTION IS BLOCKED BY ALERT UNIONISTS

Washington, Aug. 6.—The recently organized joint legislative committee, under the direction and leadership of President Gompers, has shown its value thus far in three important cases, where the resources of labor were concentrated against reactionary proposals in congress.

The first bill provides for the abolishment of preliminary hearings in extradition, permitting accused persons to be spirited away without opportunity to safeguard their rights in the place of their domicile. The second is house joint resolution 171, permitting the importation of Chinese coolies in bond into Hawaii, breaking down the principle of Asiatic exclusion. The third is taxation legislation which would permit the nation's war-made millionaires to escape tax free with their booty and shift the burden on consumers.

At the initial meeting of the joint legislative committee, called by President Gompers, 27 representatives were enrolled, representing the A. F. of L. and various international and subordinate bodies. President Gompers was elected chairman of the joint committee, with William C. Roberts of the A. F. of L. legislative committee as secretary.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together trade union legislative representatives, stationed in the nation's capital either permanently or temporarily, so that their activities will be co-ordinated. This permits labor to center all of its forces upon any given proposition. In addition it serves as a channel through which there may be a constant flow of information concerning legislation, as each representative reports at once any situation needing attention. This is communicated to all representatives, and when necessary special meetings will be called.

Constant inter-communication is maintained through the office of the secretary, with regular reports made by mail and emergency notices transmitted by telephone.

PUBLIC OPINION CAN DEFEAT PLOT TO CHINAFY AMERICA

Washington, Aug. 6.—It is imperative that labor continues its protests against a house resolution that would permit sugar planters to import 50,000 Chinese coolies to Hawaii under bond.

With this principle once established in a territory of the United States, it will soon be established in the United States proper.

The resolution is now being considered by the house committee on immigration and naturalization, Congressman Johnson, of Washington, chairman.

By their questions, Chairman Johnson, and Congressmen Shaw, of Illinois, and Free, of California, indicate their sympathy for the coolie plot.

If Americans are not alert, this committee will be captured by the friends of peonage.

Let every trade unionist write to at least one member of this committee, and then send a vigorous protest to the representative of his district if that congressman is not a member of the immigration committee. Write now. Impress upon all citizens the need for like action. Public opinion can defeat this plot to Chinafy America. Address communications care house office building, Washington, D. C.

The entire membership of the immigration committee is as follows: Messrs. Albert Johnson, chairman (Wash.), Isaac Siegel (New York), J. Will Taylor (Tenn.), John C. Kleczka (Wis.), Wm. N. Vaile (Col.), Hays B. White (Kan.), Guy L. Shaw (Ill.), Robert S. Maloney (Mass.), Arthur M. Free (Calif.), John L. Cable (Ohio), Adolph J. Sabath (Ill.), John E. Raker (Calif.), Riley J. Wilson (La.), John C. Box (Texas), Lilius B. Rainey (Ala.)

ALLEGED EFFICIENCY IS BLUFF, NOT BRAINS

New York, Aug. 6.—The alleged efficiency of "industrial captains" is more a matter of bluff than brains, says the New York World, which cruelly dispels one of the country's cherished fables.

"The tradition of American industrial efficiency staggers every other day or so under some unexpected blow," says this paper.

"Just at present the committee of the American engineering council on elimination of waste in industry reports that idle men and machinery in the metal trades are causing a loss in the neighborhood of a billion a year. The main causes of waste, in the opinion of the engineers, are faulty management and failure to find a working basis for dealing with labor. But hardly less important are limitations on output resulting from market conditions and the refusal to reduce prices to where they would become attractive.

"'It is evident,' the report reads, 'that management of labor must be elevated to a higher plane. Because labor is the major factor in most if not all industries, it should be led by recognized intelligence rather than by radical agitators on the one hand or by stupid reactionaries on the other.'

"Here, undoubtedly, the engineers have put their finger on the cause of greatest loss and greatest friction. There has been in such organizations as the steel corporation a determined effort to control labor without understanding it. The policy has divided the men between the need of their jobs and the love of their freedom.

"In good times, when credit is easy and everybody buys, any industry looks efficient. In hard times we discover that the efficiency of manufacturers is more a matter of bluff than of brains."

Sugar Barons Demand Bonded Coolies—Labor Calls On Nation To Protest

Washington, Aug. 6.—Hawaiian sugar planters are fighting tooth and nail to score a victory for profits by putting through the house the coolie peonage bill, known as H. J. Res. 171, introduced by Delegate J. Kuhio Kalanianaole, representing the Hawaiian territory in the house. Kalanianaole is said to be a prince of the old royal house of Hawaii.

During the past week labor witnesses have been on the stand, with most of the committee members cross-examining them "as if they were criminals," as Congressman Raker of California said while President George Wright of the Honolulu central labor union was on the stand.

Constantly advising members of the committee, and interjecting questions frequently, are members of the Hawaiian emergency labor commission, as it is called, and attorneys for the Hawaiian sugar planters. There appears to be complete harmony of thought between these men and most members of the committee.

Congressmen Johnson of Washington, Shaw of Illinois and Free of California, by their questioning, have clearly shown their sympathy for the coolie resolution.

Thus far the big points that stand out in the controversy are:

1—The sugar planters have been back of the resolution at every step, from the Hawaiian territorial legislature to this congress.

2—The surface ground for their demand for Oriental serf labor is that a labor shortage exists and that it can be satisfied in no other manner.

3—Evidence shows that there is no great labor shortage, that the release of aliens from government work in Hawaii will turn large numbers back to the plantations and that finally there is available a more than ample supply of Fillipino workers.

4—That the basic wage for plantation labor now is 77 cents a day.

5—That plantation employes have no voice whatever in determining anything relating to employment, conditions of labor or rates of pay.

6—That the effect of the resolution would be to establish on American soil a condition of serfdom, peonage and slavery, with Chinese coolies imported in bond; these coolies to be liable to arrest and punishment if they should attempt to leave the work for which they were brought to Hawaii.

7—That the trade union movement is solidly and unalterably opposed to thus destroying the principle of Oriental exclusion and the establishment of a system of peonage and slavery for the benefit of sugar planters.

President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, in a public statement, charged members of the committee with so conducting the examination of witnesses as to avoid the real issue.

In this statement President Gompers said:

"During three sessions I have watched the work of the house committee on immigration, having before it H. J. Res. 171, which would make possible the importation by sugar planters of Hawaii of approximately 50,000 Chinese coolies in bond.

"I have listened carefully to the examination of witnesses and it has been almost impossible to determine from the questions what is the issue before the committee.

"The issue clearly is whether the American principle of Oriental exclusion shall be destroyed, whether Chinese coolies shall be brought to Hawaii in bond, and whether America is going to permit the establishment in Hawaii of a condition of serfdom, peonage and bondage, by which coolies shall be brought to the islands, tied to their jobs and rendered liable to punishment if they attempt to desert the work for which it is proposed they shall be imported in bond.

"Members of the committee, notably Congressman Shaw of Illinois, Congressman Free of California, and Chairman Johnson of the committee, have sought to turn the whole hearing into a debate over the Japanese question. It is proposed to establish slavery on American soil. They submerge the issue and inquire about Japanese, about labor shortage, about all manner of matters that tend to take the discussion away from the real issue.

"There is before the people of the United States a grave issue. Let not the fact that this immediate resolution applies only to Hawaii mislead anyone. It has been shown to my satisfaction that Hawaiian sugar planters have urged American sugar growers to keep silent about this measure, because if coolies in peonage can be secured for Hawaii now, they may later be had for American planters on the mainland. To their credit the American planters on the mainland have not fallen in with this treacherous suggestion. But nevertheless the possibility remains.

"And no matter what the prospect in that regard, it is none the less an act of shame and disgrace for any American to advocate peonage, bond labor, slave labor, anywhere under the American flag. Hawaii is American soil and it must be given the benefit of every American principle of freedom, democracy and justice.

"The American people ought to rise in overwhelming protest and resentment against this iniquitous proposal—a proposal brought forward for the benefit of great corporations, for their added profit and for the exploitation of humanity. That such a proposal as that contained in house joint resolution 171, now before the committee on immigration of the house, can find serious supporters and apologists indicates either the extent to which ignorance of the truth exists, or the extent to which men are ready to destroy American principles to satisfy corporate appetites."

BOSSES FIGHT UNIONS TO HIDE INCAPACITY

New York, Aug. 6.—Let metal trades employers pay less attention to fighting trade unionism and more to their business, would be a good summary of a report issued by the committee on elimination of waste in industry of the American engineering council.

The report states that idle men and machinery are causing a loss of nearly a billion dollars a year in the metal trades industry. This estimate does not include the value of materials that could be utilized.

Instability of labor employment and faulty management, the committee said, are major causes of waste in this, the largest manufacturing industry in the United States, both in number of employes and value of products.

The average waste due to labor turnover mounts into millions, and most of this constant changing of labor can be avoided. Modern employment methods, embracing the study of "why men quit," are urged.

It is estimated that at present about 80 per cent of the responsibility for waste, or non-production, rests with management, and it is declared that the need is imperative that the management of labor be elevated to a higher plane.

"We have 2,000,000 unnecessary 'separations,' the equivalent of 2,000,000 workers annually separated and rehired," says the report.

Manufacturers are called upon to hasten a return to normal conditions "by producing goods as economically as possible, so as to make selling prices low enough to attract buyers."

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW HAS LOST ITS TINSEL

Topeka, Kan., Aug. 6.—The tinsel is rubbed off Allen's "can't-strike" law, which is violated with impunity by employers. It is publicly charged that the packing house interests have Allen's kangaroo court "scared stiff" and that the court is split because of politics. The latter claim is supported by the chairman of the court, Judge Huggins, who states that his court must be free from politics, and that "if this cannot be done the law cannot succeed."

The court finds itself up against a stone wall in the case of the Wolff Packing company, which discharged a foreman because he took a wage complaint to the court. An award was made in favor of the employes, which the company refused to recognize and discharged the man who was responsible for taking the case to the court. Later two men circulated petitions asking the court to reinstate the victimized worker, and they were discharged.

The attorney general is in possession of affidavits defending the workers, but nothing has been done, while officers of the company are credited with boasting that if they are crowded too far they will knock out the law.

Judge Huggins has split with Governor Allen, a fact that trade unionists show is not over principle, but rather a scrap between politicians. "Practical" politicians do not favor pushing the packers. They say that labor is against Allen; and if big business turns against him, his job of saving the world is at an end.

All of which shows that Allen and his wondrous law are on the defensive, and that both of them will in time be listed with other political freaks that attract public attention for the moment.

CAN'T CARE FOR CHILDREN.

Washington, Aug. 6.—Conditions occasioning the removal of children from their homes and measures by which family care may be preserved are discussed in a report entitled "Children Deprived of Parental Care," issued by the federal children's bureau.

This report presents the experiences of 513 children taken under care by Delaware agencies and institutions during a two-year period. At least one-half of these children had both parents living, and only 3 per cent were full orphans.

In one case out of every five delinquency on the part of parents or guardians was the cause of the child's removal. Inability of parents or guardians longer to care for the child occasioned the removal of almost one-fourth. Delinquency on the part of the child was given as the immediate cause for somewhat more than two-fifths of the removals. For 10 per cent of the children studied it appears that the developmental advantages of normal home life might have been preserved had financial assistance in the home been available.

Such measures as a state probation system, mothers' pensions and placing-out and boarding-out under probation supervision, are recommended as means for correcting in part the social wastage originating in child neglect.

FAMED GOLD STANDARD IS WOBBLY OLD BASIS

New York, Aug. 6.—The gold standard as a basis for money is wobbly, according to Dr. R. Estcourt, writing in the Annalist, financial publication in this city.

For many years the gold standard was supposed to be as fixed as the solar system, and patriots have "fit, bled and died," for this belief only to be now told that this standard is a fiction and that numerous little nations in Europe have no gold and no interest in gold, and that they can realize that a gold standard would increase their burdens by making it needful to acquire a supply of the metal at present prices in terms of their individual currencies. This would be good business for those who have gold to sell."

It is stated that 50 per cent of the gold in circulation is owned by the United States and that Great Britain and Japan are the only other powers that have gold.

"Thus, this country, the British empire and Japan have a trade interest in the resumption of specie payments. Most others have a trade interest opposed to such resumption," it is stated.

"It is daily becoming more obvious that a return to the gold basis is quite impossible with the present political map of Europe. Either that must be changed or the gold standard must be superseded. The gold standard to which we have been accustomed is a fiction. The standard as generally understood has long since disappeared, but gold remains the measure of value. That measure, however, will have to be abandoned in favor of some commodity that is present in all countries if we are to recognize the existing political divisions of Europe. Without extensive federation a gold basis is impossible outside a few countries possessing gold."

Dr. Estcourt takes occasion to hand this jab to the sales tax theory:

"The French government has levied a sales tax which yields only about one-third of its estimate, so great has been its interference with business."

SPECIAL PRIVILEGE ESCAPES TAXATION

Washington, Aug. 6.—Special privilege escapes taxation, declared Congressman Lampert, of Wisconsin, in a speech that bristled with statistics to prove that a tax on land values is necessary.

He showed that 25 cities in this country have land values estimated, after deducting all improvements, at more than $19,000,000,000. This is a sum greater by $400,000,000 than the value of all farms, including buildings and other improvements, in 24 states, which contain a total of 3,519,201 farms or over one-half of all the farms in the United States.

"And bear in mind," said Mr. Lampert, "that the census figures for 1920 were gathered during the period of highest inflation, when the price of farm property was a great deal higher than it is today."

Standing timber, valued by the government eight years ago at $6,000,000,000, exclusive of the land, exceeds by $2,000,000,000 the value of all the big farms and ranches and their improvements in 11 mountain and Pacific states.

Franchises, pipe lines, stock yards, railroad rights of way, terminals of all kinds, government land grants and like monopolies and privileges have an estimated value of $15,000,000,000, or more than the total value of all farm property in 22 states.

The value of the vast deposits of coal, oil, iron, copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver and mineral beds is estimated at $75,000,000,000, or about $7,000,000,000, more than the value of all farms, buildings and other improvements in every state in the union.

PROGRESS IN SOUTH.

New Orleans, Aug. 6.—Despite reactionary sentiment that affects this state as well as all others, trade unionists made gains at the recent constitutional convention. The workers failed to take from the constitution the section which provides that it shall be the duty of the legislature to pass arbitration laws. An amendment was secured, however, that such laws shall provide for arbitration with the consent of both parties. One of the strongest advocates of the compulsory feature was Senator Johnson of Bogalusa, where several unionists were recently murdered by lumber baron thugs.

The convention defeated a resolution that would prohibit the state from engaging in compensation or other insurance. The recall adopted provides that 15 per cent of the voters at the last election may initiate recall proceedings against a state official.

"SCIENTISTS" INCREASE.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Aug. 6.—The hydro-electric plant, which supplies power to the pressmen's home, is a success and the saving more than meets the interest on the money invested, says George L. Berry, president of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union, writing in the American Pressman. Because the union's funds were used to develop this power, suit was started against the officials.

"It is astounding," says President Berry, "how thoroughly efficient some people have become in the science of hydro-electric development. It has come to pass that those who would not know a water wheel from a jack rabbit have been able to make a lecture upon the practicability and the impracticability of water power development.

"It is additionally noteworthy to observe that in the course of this very popular indoor sport—the discussion of the Clinchfield hydro-electric company—that some persons who have never seen the hydro-electric plant, located near the pressmen's home, know more about it than the 300 delegates who met in convention in October, 1920, at Pressmen's Home—many of whom visited the plant.

"There is one consolation, if it can be so construed, that we can say that we are indeed a versatile organization — printing pressmen, hydro-electric authorities, lawyers and other things too numerous to mention in this article."

SID HATFIELD KILLED.

Welch, W. Va., Aug. 6.—Sid Hatfield, former chief of police of Matewan, was shot to death and C. E. Lively is charged with the crime.

Lively operated a restaurant at Matewan, and at the recent trial of Hatfield and others, who were accused of the death of Albert Feltz of the Baldwin-Feltz detective agency, Lively acknowledged that he was a detective and that he operated the restaurant to spy on the miners.

At the recent hearing on the Mingo county lockout, conducted by the senate committee on education and labor, in Washington, Lively testified that prior to his West Virginia experience he was a detective among Colorado miners. He said he killed a man in self-defense, surrendered and remained in jail for 16 months, as he "did not want a trial." Later he was released. While in the Colorado jail he made regular reports to the detective agency.

LESS MINERS KILLED.

Washington, Aug. 6.—The number of workers killed in and about the coal mines of this country in June, 1921, was 64 less than the number during the same period last year, reports the United States bureau of mines. This June, 155 were killed. The number of fatalities is not only reduced but the fatality rate of coal mined is lowered. In June, 1921, the fatality rate was 3.68 per million tons mined, as compared with a rate of 4.22 for June a year ago.

During the first half of the present year 970 men were killed at coal mines, against 1,093 during the first half of 1920, a decrease of 123, or about 11 per cent.

ARE THESE THE "WISE" MEN?

Washington, Aug. 6.—In a speech urging the senate to approve the bill which would create a corporation to extend credit to farmers, Mr. Ransdall, of Louisiana, said:

"Senators, most of us are lawyers. Most of us want precedents. Most of us cannot adopt anything unless we can point to some time in the history of the world when somebody else did likewise."

"YELLOW DOG" SCORED.

Buffalo, N. Y., Aug. 6.—In denying an injunction to a printer employer in this city, the supreme court of Erie county scored the individual contract, known as "yellow dog," which the employer alleged was violated by members of the Typographical union. The court said:

"This court should not protect by injunction against lawful, peaceful acts a contract wrung perhaps from an unwilling employe upon the eve of a strike by which he agrees not to be a member of a labor or trades union or boycott. These are legal rights granted for the protection and welfare of himself and family."

WIN TWO-PLATOON PLAN.

Augusta, Ga., Aug. 6.—The state legislature has accepted the two-platoon system by passing a law which applies the theory to municipal firemen of this city.

AVERAGE WAGE IS $25.71.

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 6.—The average weekly earnings of employes in the manufacturing industries of this state during June was $25.71, according to the state department of labor. This average is $3.22, or 11 per cent, less than the record average of last October when "high" wages paid skilled workers averaged but $28.93.

The June average weekly earnings in New York city was $27.22 and for the remainder of the state, $24.62.

Compared with a year ago the drop in the average weekly earnings in the factories of the state amounts to $3.06. The department's June report is based on returns from 1,648 representative factories throughout the state employing 450,000 workers and having a weekly pay roll of more than $11,500,000.

It is stated that some of the heaviest reductions were outside of New York city.

WIN 44-HOUR WEEK.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Aug. 6.—Several large printing plants in this city have broken from anti-union influences and conceded the 44-hour week.

BRITISH UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Cardiff, Wales, Aug. 6.—The annual meeting of the British Trades Union Congress will be held here, commencing September 5. Resolutions presented refer to the functioning of the triple alliance of miners, railway men and dockers; the repeal of the emergency powers act, a war measure which unionists claim is being used against strikers, and a plan for the congress to take over all trade union colleges. It is also proposed that the congress, through all trade union channels, shall immediately link up with all co-operative societies for the purpose of feeding workers during strike periods. This resolution will have many friends, especially among the miners, because of their favorable experience with the co-ops. during their recent strike.

FOOD COSTS INCREASE.

Washington, Aug. 6.—From June 15 to July 15 last there was an increase in the retail cost of food in 9 principal cities of the United States, reports the federal bureau of labor statistics.

In Detroit, the increase was 7 per cent; in Peoria and Providence, 5 per cent; in Manchester and New Haven, 4 per cent; in Mobile and Savannah, 2 per cent, and in Atlanta and Richmond, 1 per cent. In Little Rock there was a decrease of one-tenth of 1 per cent.

GOMPERS' QUICK RETORT.

Washington, Aug. 6.—At hearings conducted by the house immigration committee on the question of admitting Chinese coolies to Hawaii, Delegate Kalanianaole (representing the territory in the house) from Hawaii broke into the proceedings with a statement that it was desired to "Americanize the islands."

President Gompers quickly retorted, "with Chinese coolies."

PLUMBERS TO CONFER.

Providence, R. I., Aug. 6.—The twentieth convention of the United Association of Journeyman Plumbers and Steam Fitters will convene in this city Monday, September 19.

PACKERS' HUGE PROFITS.

Chicago, Aug. 6. — Organized butcher workmen are giving publicity to the huge profits of meat packers, that were developed at the recent wage hearings, when Federal Judge Alschuler refused to cut wages 5 cents an hour.

It was shown that surplus profits of Armour piled up to such a height that in 1916 the company issued a stock dividend of 400 per cent—that is, for every $100 of stock held additional stock to the value of $400 was issued. This favorite trick of big business "spreads out" the profits over a larger amount of stock and allays suspicion that inordinate profits are being made.

ARIZONA REACTION IS BUSY.

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 6.—The state constitution of Arizona is menaced by copper barons and other special interests who object to the initiative, referendum and recall and the direct primary. Numerous conferences have been held, it is claimed, by these interests to open a warfare against the constitution. Publicity has hampered their scheme, and rich rewards will be paid any one who can show the copper barons how to overthrow the organic act without stirring up a rumpus.

STUDIOS REDUCE WAGES.

Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 6.—"Deflation" has struck moving picture magnates and several studios in this city have cut wages $1 a day and lengthened the work day. About 1,200 men and women are on the streets.

LAWYERS AND ARBITRATION.

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Aug. 6.—The Australian Worker objects to the legal jargon and solemn nonsense raised by lawyers before the arbitration court. Recently the Bank Clerks' union was called upon to pay $15,000 for legal expenses merely to get their claims placed before this government board.

"If industrial arbitration is to be a success," says the Australian Worker, "we must get rid of the lawyers and their preposterous claim for theatrical services.

"To have to spend $15,000 in merely getting before such a court is to reduce the whole idea of arbitration to an imposture and an absurdity."

QUACKS BRING LAUGH.

Kansas City, Kan., Aug. 6.—Governor Allen's industrial court announces that coal prices will be investigated, and the Labor Bulletin, printed in this city, advises readers to put in their winter supply of coal before prices are advanced. The industrial court, says this paper, has advanced the price of coal in Kansas, and this condition will continue "just as long as a patent medicine vender can get his audience to believe all he says about his dope."

OPPOSE TEXTILE WORKERS.

Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 6.—Striking textile workers in this state are the latest victims of the poison propaganda brigade. These workers are resisting wage cuts that reduce rates below prewar standards.

Pennsy Railroad's Company "Union" Blown Skyward by R. R. Labor Board

Chicago, Aug. 6.—The United States railroad labor board has blown the Pennsylvania railroad's "union" sky high, and some fragments of this company-controlled institution are still floating in the domain of airplanes.

The railroad officials, headed by Vice President Atterbury, started their troubles when they refused to accept the order of the board in extending the national agreement and meet with employes, as was the rule since the national agreement has been in force. The railroad officials announced that they would meet employes in their own manner, and proceeded to organize a company "union."

The railroad labor board's reply is one of the hardest wallops yet given alleged employes' representation and other forms of company "unions." The board also rules that employes may vote for representatives not employes of the railroad. While the edict against the company "union" is a body blow, the other ruling shatters years of propaganda by anti-unionists, who will now be forced to meet the clear-cut reason the board gives for this position.

The board says the railroad's election of employe representatives was "unfair and illegal." The result of the election is thrown out and a new election ordered in which the name of the federated shop crafts is to be put on the ballot.

The board shows that the transportation act provides that employes shall be permitted to express preference for representatives, and that the railroad ignored this phase of the law.

The board says that under the rules of the company "union" only 10½ per cent of the employes would be represented in negotiations and 89½ per cent virtually disfranchised.

Extensive publicity, issued by the railroad in defense of its company "union," brings this broadside from the labor board:

"At a time when the nation is slowly and painfully progressing through the conditions of industrial depression, unemployment and unrest consequent upon the war, it is almost treasonable for any employer to stubbornly haggle over non-essentials at the risk of social chaos.

"The carrier had no more right to undertake to assume control of the selection of the representatives of the employes than the employes would have to supervise the naming of the representatives of the carrier, for the statute plainly provides that the employes shall 'designate and authorize' their representatives.

"In this sophisticated land of popular elections, no political party would submit to having its primary held and managed by the opposing party.

"The labor board also holds that the employes may vote for representatives who are not employes of the carrier, if they so desire, just as the carrier may select a representative who is neither a director or a stockholder."

In view of the open hostility of the railroad company to the railroad labor board, the next move of the former will be watched with interest.

Philadelphia, Aug. 6.—Newspapers in this city state that "it is reported in financial circles" that the Pennsylvania railroad will ignore the railroad labor board's blast against the railroad's company "union." It is stated that the railroad will continue its present policy of open defiance of the transportation act. Under the law, the railroad labor board can not force employes or employers to obey its mandates.

FIGHTING CONVICT LABOR.

Washington, Aug. 6.—"Permit me to impress upon you the necessity for greater activity against the convict contract labor system," says President Gompers, in a letter to the executives of national and international unions on a resolution passed by the last A. F. of L. convention which approves the national and state fights against the vicious prison contract system.

President Gompers calls attention to a bill introduced in congress which would place the products of prison labor in one state and shipped into another state under the jurisdiction of the convict labor laws of the latter state.

"Although the present congress is hostile to labor, every effort will be made to secure the passage of this bill," says President Gompers.

CIGAR STRIKE LOOMS.

Tampa, Fla., Aug. 6.—Cigar manufacturers in this city have arbitrarily cut wages 15 per cent for mold workers and 25 per cent for hand workers. Last year the bosses cut wages, and after a 10-months' strike these organized workers returned to the shops when employers pledged that there would be no more cuts. Now they claim this is necessary to regain markets that were lost because of the strike.

When the strike was on last year business men supported the manufacturers. A newspaper propaganda against "agitators" was conducted, under the title "Learn the Truth."

FRUIT WORKERS UNITED.

Fresno, Cal., Aug. 6.—The charter of the International Union of Fruit and Vegetable Workers of North America has been received from the A. F. of L. The union was launched by representatives of 27 local unions, chartered directly by the A. F. of L. The members of this organization are mainly migratory workers, who move with the seasons up and down the Pacific coast.

USE SOLDIERS IN STRIKE.

Troy, N. Y., Aug. 6.—According to the Labor Journal, Colonel Gillett, ranking officer of the 105th regiment, and paid attorney for the International Paper company, is attempting to use the national guard headquarters to enlist men to work in the paper mills as strikebreakers for the company that employs him.

"Has Major General Lester given the colonel permission to use the army and some of its supplies to crush union paper makers who are endeavoring to get a living wage?" asks the Labor Journal.

"Can it be possible that Colonel Gillett has the approval of his superior officers in using state property for a private corporation? To say he has not done this would be telling an absolute falsehood. There are any number of young men who have accused some of the guard officers of employing them under false pretenses."

MEXICO BARS CHINESE.

Washington, Aug. 6.—Information has been conveyed to A. F. of L. headquarters to the effect that the Mexican government has forbidden immigration of Chinese. This action will make impossible the further smuggling of Chinese into the United States over the Mexican border. It is stated that the practice has been for Chinese to land in Lower California, and then, by smuggling processes, to cross the California border into the United States.

Mexico, it is stated, is making great efforts to bring foreign colonists to that country, but is determined that Chinese shall not enter.

COAL OWNERS BLUFF.

Pittsburg, Kan., Aug. 6.—The wage reduction demand of coal owners in this section is a "bluff," and coal prices would not come down, even if the miners accept cuts, said Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas district, United Mine Workers.

"It is not the miners' wages that is making coal expensive for the public," the trade unionist said. "That is apparent when it is observed that while the miner only gets $1.25 a ton for digging coal, it sells for as high as $10, $12 and even $15 a ton."

WILL FEED UNEMPLOYED.

Brainerd, Minn., Aug. 6.—The state federation of labor convention instructed its officers to arrange a conference with representatives [illegible] farmers' organizations friendly [illegible] organized labor to devise [illegible] means for the establis[illegible] commissaries this winter [illegible] unemployed.

WILL FIGHT ALLEN'S LAW.

Topeka, Kan., Aug. 6.—The executive board of the Kansas state federation of labor has started a publicity campaign to repeal Allen's "can't-strike" law. As an indication of the opposition to this law outside of organized labor, the unionists call attention to the signed statement of the jury that convicted President Howat for violating the law. The judge instructed the jury to find a verdict of guilty, which they did. Then the jurors make a public statement that they believed the industrial law was wrong. The jury was composed of 10 farmers and two business men.

"We are convinced," the federation officials say, "that if it is possible to win over to our way of thinking, a jury of farmers and business men, it is possible to convince the farmers throughout the state that the industrial court law should be repealed. The Kansas state federation of labor in convention has twice condemned the court and pledged moral and financial support to the mine workers, who have stood the brunt of this battle. We must now do more effective work.

"Watch for the beginning of our campaign, which will start at once in the southeast and finally cover the entire state. When the crusaders reach your community lend them every possible assistance in their effort to carry the truth to the people."

SABOTAGE COTTON CROP.

Washington, Aug. 6.—Low prices and no market compelled cotton and rice farmers to sabotage this year's crop. The department of agriculture says that a 15 per cent reduction in cotton acreage is rare, but this year the cotton acreage in the 10 leading cotton states was cut 10,194,000 acres, or 28 per cent. The rice acreage was cut 450,000 acres, or 39 per cent.

While these farmers are forced to slow down production, they can not dispose of last year's holdings, with people everywhere in sore need of cotton and rice, and farmers in need of other necessities.

VOID COMPENSATION ACT.

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 6.—The state supreme court has outlawed the Arizona compensation law. Opposition to the act centered on section 60, which requires employes engaged in hazardous occupations to choose, before they are injured, whether they shall avail themselves of the [illegible]

strike of [illegible] averted [illegible] ers are [illegible] scales.

[illegible] MEN HOLD WAGES.

[illegible] Louis, Mo., Aug. 6.—Electrical [illegible] employed on inside work [illegible] defeated a wage reduction and [illegible] remain at work.